

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-9 remain in the application. Claims 8-9 have been withdrawn.

In the section entitled "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102" on pages 2-3 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1 and 3 have been rejected as being anticipated by Mares (US Pat. No. 4,275,030) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

placing a first, high-strength material into one single shaping mold;

introducing a second material having a lesser strength than the first material into the mold with a process selected from the group consisting of casting and

injection molding when the first material has a given amount of residual heat; and

bonding the first and second materials to a composite by utilizing the given amount of residual heat of the first material, producing the plastic component with a strength higher than the first material.

Mares describes a method for producing an article from three different plastic materials by injection molding in a form hollow space. Upon injection of a further plastic material in the form hollow space, the materials injected beforehand are still in a soft state, so that a fusion process takes place in the region of a contact surface between the further material and the material injected beforehand. This fusion process leads to the result that the different plastic materials cannot be separated any more after cooling (see column 1, lines 35-47).

The following features of the method according to the invention of the instant application differ from the method described in Mares:

1. The first material and the second material are bonded with each other in which a given amount of residual heat of the first material will be utilized.
2. The first material is high-strength material.
3. The second material has a lesser strength than the first material.

4. A composite will be produced through the bonding of the first material and the second material, which has a strength higher than the first material.

The Examiner has interpreted the method of Mares as teaching that the fusion process in the contact surface region between the material injected beforehand and the further material injected subsequently occurs due to the residual heat of the first injected material. However, Mares does not provide any hint toward such a method. Rather, Mares carries out a method in which the first injected plastic material is still in a soft state upon the injection of the further plastic material. This can only be understood as meaning that the fusion of the two plastic materials occurs because both the first injected material and the subsequently injected material are still soft. The Mares method does not need any residual heat from the first injected material in order to cause the fusion process. The first injected plastic material has residual heat since it is in a soft state upon the injection of the further material. However, Mares does not contain any hint that the residual heat will be specifically utilized.

Mares also does not provide any information about a different strength of the injected materials or about a different strength between the injected materials and the produced

article. The only hint that Mares provides with regard to different properties of the applied plastic materials is that the materials have a different color (see column 1, lines 18-20).

In summary, the method as recited in claim 1 of the instant application differs from Mares in both the specific utilization of the residual heat of the first injected material and the different strengths of the materials used as the basic materials and/or the produced article.

Clearly, Mares does not show "bonding the first and second materials to a composite by utilizing the given amount of residual heat of the first material, producing the plastic component with a strength higher than the first material," as recited in claim 1 of the instant application.

Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over Mares and since claim 3 is dependent on claim 1, it is believed to be patentable as well.

In the section entitled "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103" on pages 3-5 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 2 and 4-5 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Mares in view of Bertschi et al. (US Pat. No. 5,651,998) under 35

U.S.C. § 103(a); claims 6 and 7 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Mares in view of Hara et al. (US Pat. No. 5,277,865) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As discussed above, claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the art. Since claims 2, 4-5, and 6-7 are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-7 are solicited.

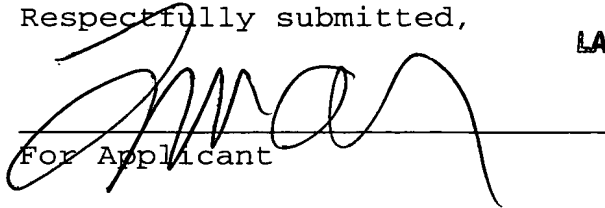
In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to

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Respectfully submitted,



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